

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:	Anju Brodbine	Dhimant Chhaya
	Amin Hashmi	Tom Kaszubski
	Padma Kuppa	Oniell Shah
	Cindy Stewart	

Absent:	Brian Griffen	Victoria Lang
	Hailu Robele	

Correspondence

Tom K: Need a person from Hindu Temple to take part in Prayer Breakfast on May 2 - Padma will contact pastor.

Cindy S: One of the Troy Police Training Officers wants to speak with board members re: a diversity training tape. All agreed to let CS pass along their names & phone numbers.

Committee Name / Mission / Goals

The Board agreed on Ethnic Issues Advisory Board

Mission / Goals - email Cindy ideas for mission/goals. Board will discuss at the April meeting.

New Business**Ideas to get Board started:**

International Day - have council proclaim this in Troy. Maybe in conjunction with Prayer Breakfast and with the Schools. Breakfast is Friday, May 2. Council can proclaim International Day at the April 28th Council meeting. We need to finalize mission and goals at the April meeting.

Wass and Hill Schools at Wass Elementary on Thursday, May 15 from 6-8 pm. are doing a "Sights and Sounds of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh)" program. Mayor/Council will get invitations. Padma will pass along Board's addresses.

Invite the co-chairs of the EthniCity Committee (JoAnn Preston & Dave Lambert) to come to the April meeting and discuss ways Board can assist this program. Eventually hope to have EthniCity as a stand-alone festival in the summer. Also ask JoAnn if Board can get copy of resource guide (organizations) that they have.

Get information on Southfield Ethnic Festival

Start a monthly program at Community Center highlighting a different culture each month. Include photo displays, costumes, food, and entertainment. Promotions via press, cable, website. Padma suggested India for the first program in October since they would have everything together from the Wass/Hill event. Schedule the event on Saturday afternoon, 3-5 pm (1st/2nd/3rd/4th Saturdays?) Cindy will check Community Center availability.

In the future, develop a brochure & web site information for new residents. Support group for parents new to the area.

Items for the Board to work on:

April: Proclamation

May: Brochure

June: Planning for fall event

Other ideas:

Sporting events “Unity Games” tournament within Troy community (ping pong, soccer, cricket, badminton, basketball)

Cricket demonstrations, scholarships

Cindy will do a press release: Need student reps for board

Research Website links related to diversity issues for our website:

Detroitindia.com

Miindia.com

Michigan Asian/Indian Family Services

Old Business

Board talked about reasons they wanted to involved in this committee.

DC: Troy is ethnically diverse. Nice to get an understanding of different backgrounds.

OS: Interested in being a volunteer, wants to learn and contribute to the City.

AH: Interested in public service- want to be part of the community, get involved, more active. Share his culture.

PK: important for people to understand other cultures/ethnic backgrounds. Opening up her culture (Indian) to others. Communication. Post 9/11 troubling the way the world is going. Saw this group as a positive step.

HR: Impressed with diversity in Troy (especially at Troy Daze and EthniCity)

AB: Trying to have community understand and embrace different cultures. Worry there is too much segregation among groups. We won't be able to come together and learn from one another if segregated. Want Troy to be a multi-cultural mosaic.

TK: Interest grew from involvement in EthniCity & Troy Daze. Need more understanding, not so much from children (schools doing a good job) but with adults, need to gain more acceptance of different cultures.

Next meeting April 8 at 7 pm

Board Adjourned at 8:45 pm